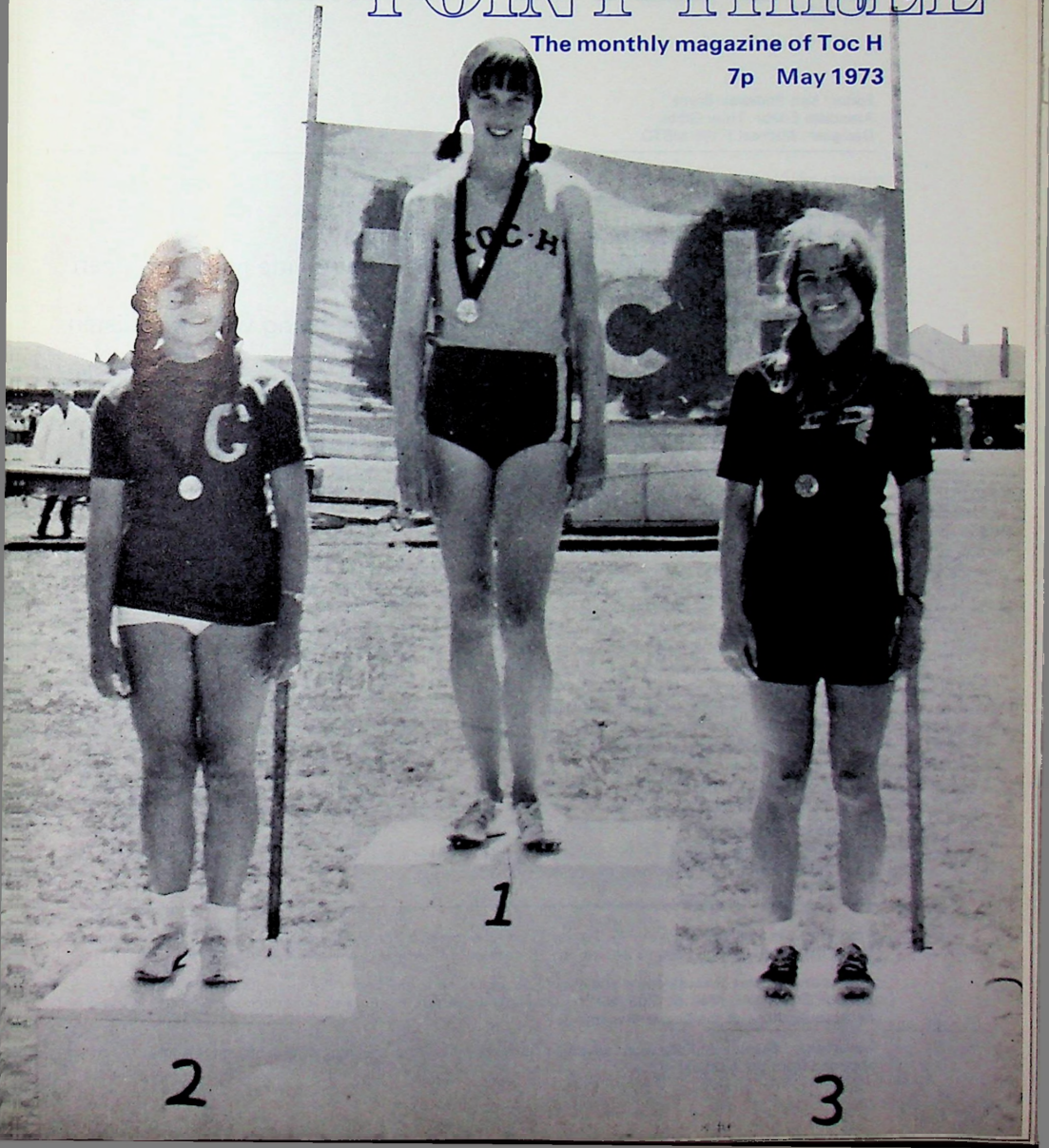
POINT THREE

The monthly magazine of Toc H
7p May 1973



POINT THREE

May 1973

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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man

2 To give personal service

3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others

4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

On the cover:

Three happy medal winners on the dais at the Toc H Athletic Club's junior mini-olympics in Christchurch, New Zealand, of which a full report appeared in our last issue.

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL (Tel: 01-709 0472). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Advertising: Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

VIEWPOINT

The Christian basis

'The most decisive single issue now confronting the Movement is how openness of membership and the participation of non-Christians in its management and direction may be sincerely and effectively combined with a continuing quest for God's inspiration and guidance.'

That statement was not made about Toc H but about the YMCA. It is taken from an article by Sir Frank Willis, a former General Secretary of the National Council of YMCA's of England, Ireland and Wales, printed in the YMCA magazine, *World Communique*. But the dilemma he poses is a real one for us too. It has been raised recently in *Point Three* in an article by John Forbes, and the discussion has been continued on our letters page. What do we really mean when we talk about our Christian basis?

The difficulty is partly one of defining what the word Christian means. It means so many different things to different people. Inter-denominational squabbles, with their echoes of 'battles long ago', seem little nearer solution. In the 10 years since the publication of Bishop Robinson's *Honest to God* so many of the old certainties have sunk without trace that it's hard to know just what are the essential elements of the Christian faith. We can wave goodbye to the miracles without too much of a pang and can even, perhaps, accept that the shepherds and the Wise Men are folklore like the holly and the Yule Log. But where do we draw the line? If the stable goes can the Empty Tomb be far behind?

The division between Christian and non-Christian is itself blurred. What about those who feel a commitment to Jesus Christ, but who reject the institutional church in all its forms? Or what about those—and I suspect that their numbers may be growing—who are committed to the man Jesus, and to his insights into the human condition, but who are unable to accept his divinity and for whom the term 'God' has ceased to have any meaning?

These are some of the complexities of the current situation which have to be taken into account in any discussion of the dilemma which faces us. On the other hand certain basic principles are clear. There has never been any kind of credal test for membership. The individual decides for himself at what point he is ready to commit himself to aspire to the ideals enshrined in the Four Points. Membership is, as *Strategy for the Seventies* underlines, a continuous learning process. Throughout our membership, hopefully, we gain new insights, increased awareness and a deeper understanding of the meaning and purpose of life. As Tom Orchard put it in a letter to *Point Three* in March: 'The supreme affirmation of Christian discipleship is not "I believe" but "I follow", and the latter affirmation should be the basis of Toc H membership.'

Toc H calls itself a Christianising Movement, the assumption being that, whether or not we call ourselves Christians at the time we join, the learning process will nonetheless lead us to an ever deeper commitment to Jesus Christ. But what if it doesn't? What of the man who shares our experience but rejects the conclusions we draw from it? Are we always able to offer the kind of experience that will enable a man to deepen his understanding of what life is all about? This is where the crunch comes.

I have done no more than pose a few questions and I confess I don't know any of the answers. The issue raised for us, as for the YMCA, by Sir Frank Willis' article is complex, and there are no easy answers. Indeed, although the dilemma is certainly not a new one I doubt whether we have yet reached the stage of clarifying the questions.

K P-B

THE MYTH OF RETIREMENT

W Loving, editor of *Retirement Choice*, the monthly magazine published by the Pre-Retirement Association, writes about some of the problems of retirement and how these are being tackled by the Association

A former garage owner, who has taken to breeding Shetland ponies in his retirement, being filmed for a 30 minute documentary, *Time on Your Hands*, produced by the Churches' Television and Radio Centre.

I write this article with a mild sense of guilt. It was promised some weeks ago and yet here I am, tremendously aware of the need to publicise the work of the Pre-Retirement Association, but still not having completed the contribution.

Are there problems of retirement? Do we really need an organisation devoted to solving them? What work does the Pre-Retirement Association do, anyway? After all most of us have been present at one time or another at those pleasant little ceremonies to say farewell to some lucky colleague who has reached retirement age and who goes off clutching his presentation gold watch into a future free of daily work routine, commuter travel and worries about his job. And in our heart have we not secretly envied him his new situation in which he can garden to his heart's content, decorate the house at his leisure and generally spend limitless time doing anything he fancies?

And yet—and yet—is this quite the picture? Mine, I consider, is a privileged position. People come and talk to me about retirement matters in a way they would probably not to others because they know that I am deeply involved in what I—and others—consider is a great social problem. One, a man in his late 60's, who had an ordinary sort of job in a factory, said that when he ceased work at 65 all went well for a few weeks. He bumped into old workmates and had an occasional drink with them; accompanied his wife shopping; stayed in bed at the time he knew the factory hooter would be beckoning others; and generally sampled the flavour of freedom from routine.

Then, one morning, finding himself alone in the house, he broke down and cried. 'I felt', he said, 'so utterly useless!'

Another, a man in a different social bracket, was the managing director of a firm. The company was taken over and he was offered retirement when in his late 50's. He clutched it, as he said, with both hands. He had worked hard all his life; problems of business were becoming increasingly complex and worrying; and in his scant leisure he relaxed either on a golf course or in his greenhouse. Visions of endless days on the links, of growing bigger, better blooms than anyone else, suddenly seemed eminently desirable.

Months later, remembering at his retirement party those who had enthusiastically said, 'come back and see us,' he returned. He told me: 'I went back because I was fed up with having nothing to do. Golfing and the greenhouse were all right, but not enough. I thought I'd see if I could do something in a part-consultative capacity. I was absolutely shattered at my reception. No one really wanted to know. People were quite embarrassed to see me. I got out as quickly as possible but as I drove away I was almost overwhelmed by a feeling of rejection. It was so strong that I just had to stop the car.'

I could cite more instances, but these two fairly commonplace stories, not possessing any great elements of drama, are general examples of what is happening on a fairly large scale. Some people can cope with the retirement phase; many, many others find they cannot.

The realities of retirement are not as yet fully charted, but wherever any research work has been done almost inevitably it has tended to challenge the myths—and this is not too strong a word—that we have inherited on the subject. I say 'inherited' quite deliberately because so much of our present thinking on the matter comes to us from the 19th century.

In those days work was the thing—unless you were too old, too ill or too incapacitated to be part of the bustling scene. For the sick and the inadequate there were rather grim facilities of a kind; for the old, figuratively, there was a place by the fireside, where even then an aged man or woman would still feel part of the scene.

Today, things have changed drastically. Take the numbers problem alone. About 8 million people draw state pensions because they have reached the 'official' age of retiring. Roughly speaking, I would assume, there are possibly about a further 2 million in the late 50's and early 60's who with the advantage of earlier pensions have also joined the great army across the retired line. Redundancy, which particularly affects the older age groups, is also swelling these numbers. All in all a good one-fifth of our total population is affected—I would say afflicted—by retirement. We can expect this proportion to increase well before the end of the century.

Unlike the old and frail of Victorian times, the average person today coming up to retirement is active, healthy and potentially capable of contributing much to the community.

Yet, unless in some way or other he has been lucky enough to prepare himself for this new period ahead, he will soon discover that he is frustrated, bored and, more than anything else, suffering from a sense that he is not part and parcel of everyday adult society.

One reason is that a person who has been earning his living for 30, 40 or more years, is supported more than he realises by his employment structure. His job, whatever it is, gives him status, as well as money. It demands of him a daily routine with which he must comply. It gives him the company of fellow-employees. In spite of what is often said about loafers existing on social security, the average person when he becomes unemployed has within him a sense of shame and failure. To work is the thing and all that goes with it; not to be needed is to suffer a blow to one's sense of purpose.

Clinically speaking, this is what we do to people who retire. We divorce them, with fine words and good cheer, from the framework which sustains them. *And we do not provide any comparable replacement.* As a society, we accept that people must make thorough preparation for a career, whether by way of an apprenticeship, graduate studies or professional examinations; yet at the other end of the scale, we turn them off into a strange new country to leave them to find a way through it as best they can.

The problems that face a retired person centre much around adjustment. If he is married, there are new domestic routines to evolve. Many wives, with a family well off their hands, have pursued a career or activities of their own and suddenly, as it is so often put, they are landed with a husband permanently at home for seven lunches a week. There are problems of finance; of adjusting to a lower income; of deciding priorities of needs; there are problems of accommodation, whether to move or stay put; to swell the numbers of the aged at the seaside or to acquire a smaller house in a locality where one has roots.

There are problems of activity, of self-discipline to create some kind of routine that will replace the one which work provided. There are psychological problems of *wanting* to feel old—the conventional pressures, stemming from society. And when all these things happen more or less at once, it is not altogether surprising that Charlie, who left the works six months ago, ready and eager to draw his pension as the reward for his toil, is not looking quite so spry as he should be.

It is for all these reasons and others that the Pre-Retirement Association came into existence to drive home the notion that retirement is something that must be prepared for. We have never been a very well supported body in money terms, although at all times we have had generous aid from people in many disciplines and walks of life who have glimpsed our needs and our aims and have given of their skill and services. Doctors, educationalists, employers, trade unionists and a large range of worthy voluntary bodies figure in our membership lists. But as I survey our shoe-string finances, I often think of what a wonderful return the country—

not us—is getting. We run an advisory service on retirement for employers; we help to encourage the spread of retirement courses throughout the country; we have a panel studying adult educational facilities; another concerned with socio-medical matters. Through conferences we provide a common meeting ground for social workers and others who are involved in the subject. We issue a newsletter which provides a digest of all that is happening related to retirement at home and abroad. We encourage research projects. Above all, for the individual—and he or she must always be at the heart of our work—we have been able at long last to provide a monthly magazine, *Retirement Choice*. We so badly need this kind of grassroot communication.

This recital is not intended as a 'commercial' for arousing a response; rather to drive home that we are actively meeting the challenge of a social problem which even today has not been accurately measured. Not so long ago we were able to hold a conference in London of various local retirement bodies which have been established to meet the needs of their localities. The agenda was planned to enable all kinds of viewpoints to be expressed. We heard what was happening in Glasgow, in Birmingham, in Manchester and in other places.

What impressed me was the sense of zeal that people had in the cause. What depressed me was that the number of regional organisations is still appallingly low—only 26 at the most. There should be one in every town and city. When, for instance, I listened to a report of what Birmingham was doing and realised how valuable was their work, I thought rather gloomily of other communities, almost as large as Birmingham, where nothing—but nothing—is being done.

Similarly, in my editorship of the magazine, while I am grateful for the response it has received and while I can point to a rising circulation with every issue and a good, active reader participation, there are occasions when I am reminded of the immense distance we have yet to cover. An aim of mine is to try to improve employment facilities for older people and I have unashamedly used my editorial function to play up this point. Glasgow with a small team of volunteers, operating from a shared office, does a wonderful job in this direction; Welwyn Garden City have just started a pioneer scheme of their own which I am confident will be successful. But so much more could and should be done. It is shameful the way we waste the talents, skills and willing services of older people.

Which brings me back to my opening paragraph and my half-apology for not supplying this article earlier. The delay was due simply to a pressure of work which is a good sign—it shows that people are interested in what we are doing. If readers themselves would like to know more about the Association, we have a small general brochure which gives a summary of our activities and which I should be delighted to forward. The address of the Pre-Retirement Association is 194 Clapham Park Road, London SW4 7DU.

Next month

Doug Morris suggests a practical way in which Toc H can help.

Caravans

We have received details of Toc H-owned caravans which are available to provide low-cost holidays for needy families sponsored by branches.

Morecambe, Lancs.

A six berth caravan, with toilet, on a well run site. Accommodation provided free. Owned by Blackburn branch. Details from: K. Sharples, 76 Heys Lane, Blackburn, Lancs BB2 4ND.

Hayling Island, Hants.

Accommodation for two adults and three small children, or two older children. Cooking and washing facilities; toilets on site. Cost (including site rent and calor gas) about £6 per week. Owned by South East Hants District. Details from: Jack Lindsay, 2 Corfe Close, Fareham, Hants.

POETRY

Sue Sutton works in the accounts department at Wendover. She had never taken much interest in poetry until Keith Rea asked her to help him with the organisation of last year's poetry weekend at Alison House. After that weekend she started writing and we print here three samples of her work. We also print a light-hearted verse by Jim Curran who recently joined Toc H as a member of Barkingside branch in East London.

THE VISITOR

Will you be coming next week, Luv?
She said.
Expect I'll still be here unless
I'm dead.
I never see another soul
but you.
It gives me something to look
forward to.
I've got a son, never see him
no more.
With me legs bad, don't get outside
the door.
Me kitchen's small, the walls is damp,
got mice.
Sorry Luv, excuse me place its
not nice.
Had a visit from the Council Man
one day.
He asked me lots of questions and
went away.
It's nice to talk to someone, Luv,
She said.
I'll still be here next week unless
I'm dead.

Sue Sutton

A CRY FROM THE CITY

I'm rushing, rushing all day long.
Little bird, can't hear your song.
Sorry can't stop no time to spare.
Much too busy going nowhere.
Not much time to look at flowers
Living in these concrete towers.
City life is never slow—
Can't help feeling lonely though.

Lots of people come and go.
Can't stop, just a quick 'hello'.
Must go—got to catch my train.
Sometime, perhaps, we'll meet again.
Must get to work, got lots to do,
Haven't time to talk to you.
Lots of people in the city.
Lonely people—that's the pity.

Sue Sutton

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

Who are these fellows I see Monday night?
They start off their meeting and put out the light.
But wait; there's a new light piercing the gloom,
It reflects in the eyes of each chap in the room.
What can it be this bright glow that I see,
Is it a new flame? I'm sure it can't be.
Have I seen it before in some shelter or trench?
No, it needs darkness to shew forth its strength.
With my ear at the keyhole I'll find out what they say
And maybe the secret I'll discover that way.
Help! what's this smoke rising up from the deck,
Are they making some sort of sacrifice? heck
I believe it's a ritual to some ancient God,
With some sort of action that takes place in a fog.
But wait; someone's speaking, or was that a
cough,
Or may be the chap at the end's getting tough.
He bangs on the table, and makes rude remarks,
To some chap on his left who growls and barks
About skittles and carols, and such childish things,
'Time for refreshments' somebody sings.
I'd better be off, I can't stand any more,
I don't want to be caught with my ear at the door,
I must get inside and see what goes on,
If I keep quiet and do nothing wrong,
Who knows, with patience I may catch on,
And maybe from my own face one day
This light may shine forth to lighten the day.

Jim Curran

THE TRAMP

He was a starter in the race
that runs mankind.
But life was always out in front
and he behind.
So the world rushed by and left him
standing there.
Hiding in the hungry hollows
and the frightened stare.
All the prizes for the loser
tied up with string
in one pathetic parcel which
holds everything.
Sleeping on park or station bench
too tired for shame.
And when he gets too tired to live
who shall we blame?

Sue Sutton

PRACTICALLY, A BRANCH

5. Stewardship

George Lee

In some form we must all have heard of the Priest, the Vicar and the Rabbi discussing how they dealt with collections, and of how the Rabbi 'capped' the other two by throwing the collection in the air and telling the good Lord that what he caught he could have—and the rest was the Rabbi's!

I would hazard a guess that most of us in Toc H, as in the Church, still think first of finance when the word 'Stewardship' is mentioned. Certainly until recent times the idea suggested a pressing ever-present financial problem. But money is, and always has been, only one of our many gifts, and sadly, in laying so much emphasis on financial stewardship, we have tended more and more to let our other talents, gifts, attributes, either lie dormant or fade almost into uselessness.

Real stewardship is the using and sharing of all our gifts, holding nothing back. Anything less than the best we can offer is a mockery of all we claim for Toc H. We are concerned with whole men and not with abstractions.

Too often we tend to use only those gifts at which we excel. Too many are deprived of a full life due to a lack of material things. But my friend and colleague John Hull has been saying for years that there are even more who are starved of beauty and whose powers of discerning or creating beautiful things are quite undeveloped. While therefore finance is indeed a valuable part of our stewardship, so are things of beauty and of spiritual value.

Tubby often quoted the story of the man converted under a railway arch who thereafter thought that nobody could be properly converted unless it happened under a railway arch. It probably strikes us as rather amusing, but the fact is that too often finance has become the railway arch of our stewardship and we ignore or minimise our other gifts.

We can be side-tracked if we see stewardship in terms of finance and miss the full richness, wonder and power of life.

A word of warning then; for if we continue to consider stewardship only in terms of money to maintain a Movement, all we shall be left with in the end will be traditions—which, on their own, are of little worth, for the watchwords of the past, for the most part, do not kindle the imagination of folk today.

Alec Churcher in *The Second Mile* says: 'Too many aspirations remain only pious hopes for lack of willingness to spare time and thought and energy for translating them into action.'

Stewardship in Toc H means using ALL our gifts to the full and for the benefit of all. Only the full and real stewardship of all our individual gifts, and the sum total of the whole membership will ever show forth Toc H as it was meant to be—as it must be.

Some practical hints:

1 Never consider any talent of yourself or others too small to be used and cultivated.

2 Never neglect to help others to develop their talents or to accept help from others.

3 Wherever and whenever possible link your talents with those of others.

4 Never knowingly hide or minimise a known talent just because you are aware of the demands that full use of that talent would make on you.

5 If Toc H is only one of your many loyalties and allegiances ensure that Toc H gets its fair share of your talents.

6 Remember that in most situations one of the most valuable gifts is a sense of humour—use it well and wisely.

7 Remember even to cherish the weakness of limited success knowing you used your talents to the best of your ability.

8 Never take either your gifts or those of others for granted—and never ignore such gifts as faith, trust and honesty.

9 Remember that tolerance is a gift worth developing.

10 Use all your gifts wisely and well; with enthusiasm, with imagination and vision; with determination and discipline, by the most effective means, to the best ends.

11 Develop the gift of listening—to your

fellows, to your God—you are more likely to learn the truth and the opportunities that way.

1:2 Oh yes! St Paul had much to say about gifts and their uses—worth reading—worth following!

Next month . . . What's it all about?

Obituary

We regret to announce the death, in March, of Dorothy M Rushton. For many years Dorothy operated the cash desk at the Crutched Friars lunch club; her brother Cecil was at school with Tubby.

We also regret to announce the death of the following members:

In December: Frank S Leighfield (Wootton Bassett), Edith Woodward (Bingham).

In January: Ronald L Amoore (Oxford & Thames Valley Area), W C L Hawker (Hagley).

In February: Charles W Barrett (Budleigh Salterton), Herbert W Connarley (Buckland (Dover)), Reginald H Cuff (Buckland (Dover)), Mark H W Fletcher (Netherton), May Flint (Staunton Harold), Freda M Tutton (Exeter), Lucy M Rogers (St Leonards), Violet Simpson (Nairn), F Jack Venn (Gloucester), Miss E B Wolseley (Central), Joseph H Waterson (Stow on the Wold).

In March: Edward Goodacre (Lincolnshire Area), Frederick R Luck (East Midlands Area), J Frederick J Rugg (Eastbourne).

We give thanks for their lives.

Welcome Point

The following branches were recognised by the Central Executive at its March meeting: Pant (j), Rishton (w), Rushden Pytchley (w).

The following branches elected new members during March:

5—Alston (w), Hemel Hempstead (w).

4—Bramcote (j), Hartley Wintney (w).

3—Paris (w), Rishton (w), Trimley (w), Wigmore (w).

2—Calstock (m), Cardiff (w), Carisbrooke (w), Eastbourne (w), Launceston (j), Pocklington Court (j), Rushden (w), Surrey, S & W London Area, Washington (j), Wiggenhall St Germans (j).

1—Aigburth (w), Arlington (j), Bailiff Bridge (w), Beckley (m), Cambridge (j), Carlisle (w), Catterick Village (m), Central, Coomb (Cheshire Home) (m), Corsham (m), Felpham (m), Finchley & Whetstone (w), Higham Ferrers (w), Highams Park (w), Hitchin (m), Holland on Sea (w), Ickenham & Uxbridge (w), Kendal (w), Kennington (London) (m), Leigh on Sea (w), Llanllwch (m), Manchester Central (m), Mark VII (m), Martock (m), Mold (w), Newbury (m), Orpington (m), Penn (w), Reading (w), Rochdale (m), Scottish Area, Sneyd (m), Spalding (w), St Helier (m), Stirling (j), Stow on the Wold (m), Twydall (j).

We extend a warm welcome to the 97 new members.

HISTORIC ALISON HOUSE

Alison House has been listed by the Department of the Environment as a building of special architectural and historical interest. This means that it is protected from any development which would spoil the beauty or character of the building.

Originally called Oak Hill, this Georgian mansion was the dower house of the Arkwrights, whose family seat was at Willersley Castle nearby. The Arkwrights and their influence can be seen everywhere in Cromford. It was where Richard Arkwright developed the modern factory system based on water power and where he perfected the Spinning Jenny in 1768. The famous spinning machine is still on show at the Arkwright Mills, Matlock.

WHO CARES?

A challenge from former staff member Bob Purdy

In a recent report *Hospital, Prison or Pad,* the National Association for Mental Health says, 'failures of the present system of psychiatric treatment and prison after-care must be dealt with under a plan involving government departments, councils and *voluntary organisations* . . .' The report says: 'the number of rootless people is steadily growing, and many have suffered and are still suffering from some form of mental disorder'.

Many men and women now in prison for short terms, who have no fixed address, need psychiatric treatment or rehabilitation. Also recommended are extensions of government reception centres, more social workers, grants for voluntary bodies doing pioneer work, and a common grants policy to bring psychiatric after-care hostels into line with prison care hostels.

My recent four years as Methodist visiting Minister to HM Prison, Durham, and Chaplain to all those who were registered, on reception, as members of non-conformist churches, made me more and more convinced that here indeed was an area of operation in which Toc H featured so prominently in former years. Toc H was involved to a high degree. Alex Patterson, Henry Scott, Bill Llewelyn and David Hewlans were pioneers of small but effective teams, and there is a fine record of Toc H prison visitors. But now the work in this sphere of urgent social need is not so apparent, when the need is greater than ever. This may be in the new direction of after-care and rehabilitation, and work with the wives and families of men during their term of imprisonment.

With the introduction of the new Criminal Justice Act the need will become greater and more intense. Could this be looked at in the terms expressed by the Director of Toc H in his recent statement on the aims of development, 'to find new areas of service'? The burden to be borne by the Probation Department will indeed be a heavy one, and I am sure that they will be grateful for any service they feel Toc H men and women will be able to afford.

After-care is no easy task. Patience and consistency and care in the real sense of the word are the ingredients that are necessary to develop the degree of intimate friendship with those who do not openly seek it, but in fact need it. Michael Wolff in his book *Prison* says 'It is of great help to them to have a fresh mind, with a wide outlook, to bear upon the problems of after-care. There is a place in the lives of ex-prisoners for a friend whose life is not bound up with the prison or statutory social work. With careful selection and training there is no doubt that such voluntary effort has in the past, and can in the future, play a considerable part in the re-habilitation of the ex-prisoner as a supplement to the efforts of the professional social worker'.

Toc H is constantly seeking to be involved and to understand its fellow man and woman, and to highlight the features which bring us together. But Christian love in practice is much more difficult and complex than we are prepared to admit. For while it is easy to love people and situations we like, it is a more difficult and painful process to keep a loving spirit for people and situations we don't like.

We are called however 'to love widely'.

What, in fact, was Thora up to?

Extract from Southern Area Minutes: 'Forestvale: Thora Cummings not being present there was no news. Ivy felt sure Thora hadn't been. Stella said she and a few Plumbago members were to go and as she (Stella) had been out of Bulawayo perhaps Thora hadn't gone.'
Inevitably reminds one of the oldie—note to teacher: 'Dear Miss—Little Johnnie hasn't come because he hasn't been. I've given him something to make him go and when he's gone he'll come.'

From the magazine of Toc H Rhodesia.

'With assistance from the Bard'

Harry Brier

'*I this infer . . .*
As many arrows, loosed several ways,
Come to one mark; as many ways meet in one town;
As many fresh streams meet in one salt sea;
As many lines close in the dial's centre;
So may a thousand actions, once afoot,
End in one purpose, and be all well borne
Without defeat.'
Henry VI ii

Surely our one purpose is the Kingdom of God, not the 'largest membership Movement'? I am well aware that without new members we shall not last as a Movement; if this happens it will be because God considers there is no further need, we cease to offer a worthwhile experience, or, to me most likely, we have missed our opportunities.

Like Alan Guy (whose letter in February I commend for re-reading) I am alarmed, not only by the suspicion of projects, but by the attitude I have also met—'How many members have we got from Projects?' Surely 'What is there in it for us?' is not Toc H! The success of projects can never truly be measured and, whilst only a minority may join, we shall never know what the rest took with them of Toc H.

Extension of Toc H may take many forms:
'If you can look into the seeds of time,
And say which grain will grow and which will not.' *Macbeth I iii*

I never expected a membership form to be sent out with a project application form. I would rather the youngster decided we had something worth joining and said so. Alan comments that few volunteers feel attracted to branch life but prefer to form working groups, and he seems to consider this harmful. Here I disagree with him: the operative word is *group*. Toc H has proved often that in working together barriers are broken more easily than by just meeting in a branch. I am more concerned about new members of any age who are for various reasons on their own. This concern was evident at Swanwick and has been so at the Districts and branches where I have led discussions on the recommendations on membership in *Strategy for the Seventies*.

Whilst the fellowship of any group, whatever form it takes, is part of the Toc H experience, I am certain that the First Point of the Compass was meant to have a wider implication than the group; 'to love widely' we accept as a commitment for life—not just for 'our branch'. There is a tendency for some branches to become groups of like-minded people, sometimes resenting 'different' people. The answer lies again in *Strategy*. We must look at ourselves and see how we measure up to the original and unchanging aims of the Movement and do something about it ourselves, not blaming projects or any other handy scapegoat. Each of us, whether lay or staff, is a full-time member; we each know the depth of our own commitment and whether we are trying to live it out in the whole of our lives. To love and understand is not easy. 'We are Toc H, it is our strength, our vision, our loyalty that make Toc H.' (*Here and There* by John Durham.)

For the future, may I, with faith, again quote the bard:
'O brave new world,
That has such people in't.'
Tempest V v

Next month in *Point Three*

The first new Toc H initiative to receive substantial help from the proceeds of the sale of 15 Trinity Square is in Newcastle. The scheme is described for us by Colin Gregg.

War Games. Not a military take-over of Toc H but the name of an unusual project to be held this summer in Hampshire. Alan Guy of the Western Regional staff tells us what it's all about.

Anyone who has considered setting up an emergency call scheme for the elderly is aware of the variety of systems in use. Central Councillor Eric Hodges shares with us the results of his research into what's available.

GIVE
AND MAKE

OUTSET is a recently established charity which ra
sponsored community work. This new concept is expl

OUTSET is an organisation with charitable status which was set up 2½ years ago with the immediate intention of helping single homeless and rootless people. Its founders hoped that through a new form of fund-raising called sponsored community work they would be able to raise funds for the caring organisations in the field. OUTSET also intended to speak out on behalf of the single homeless, to represent their interests in public debate, to inform the general public about the problem and to encourage government, both national and local, to do more to help. In the latter role OUTSET has achieved a great deal but sponsored community work as a fund-raising method has proved expensive and difficult to organise on the small scale on which a new charity was bound to operate. Sponsored community work means volunteers, particularly from among young people, doing short-term community work projects such as conservation, or decorating homes for the aged or disabled. The worker obtains sponsorship at so much per hour from friends, relations and others. Thus OUTSET provides a constructive and beneficial alternative to walks and other forms of sponsored events.

Since October 1971 OUTSET has involved more than 15,000 volunteers in a variety of community work campaigns. Most of these volunteers were in our schemes to identify the chronically sick and disabled, carried out in conjunction with 14 local authorities (to comply with the 1970 Act sponsored by Alf Morris MP). About 12,000 people who may benefit were put in touch with their Social Services Department and it looks as though a minimum of £1,800,000 will have to be spent within the next two years to provide for the needs of some of these people.

Not all of these campaigns to find the chronically sick and disabled used volunteers who were sponsored by the hour. In many cases OUTSET obtained 'sponsorship' by negotiating a fee with the local authority concerned. It may be that the future holds many more possibilities for raising money on this basis.

We have already said that the original sponsored community work schemes were expensive to

A DAY DIFFERENCE

money to help the homeless through the medium of dl by OUTSET's campaign director, John Kingsbury.

organise and the average sponsorship per head to date has only been £2.55 per volunteer. This compares most unfavourably with the 15 minute sponsored swims which are organised by many large charities, where the average sponsorship per head is at least £5. But what make OUTSET's method so worthwhile are the excellent spin-offs.

In the OUTSET programme, young people are involved in their community to a depth which is impossible with the usual fund-raising techniques. The fact that the demand is only for a very short commitment on the part of the young volunteer means that very large numbers can be mobilised and many young people involved who would not normally risk tying themselves down to the more demanding work of the long-term young volunteer organisations.

This summer OUTSET has planned a nationwide sponsored community work scheme and hopes, by reason of the scale of the operation, to prove the benefit of the fund-raising side of sponsored community work—in addition to all the other good things about it. The net profits from the campaign within any region will be returned to projects which are concerned with helping those who are homeless, rootless, neglected or socially disabled.

OUTSET sees itself more and more as a vehicle to enable individuals and the community at large to help with a fairly broad spectrum of social need. Since OUTSET began, the cause of the single homeless has become much more popular: some would even say 'trendy'. Now that the consortium of charities, including OUTSET, called the Campaign for the Homeless And Rootless has been set up, we may see OUTSET devoting much more of its time to the community development field and particularly to encouraging community support and care for an increasing number of isolated individuals.

Under the auspices of OUTSET boys from schools in the London Borough of Haringey clear junk from old railway tracks used as a play area by local children.

Photo: Courtesy OUTSET

The Toc H Prayer 6

Teach us . . . to leap with joy to any task for others

Keith Beck

We are still asking to be taught, even when we turn to what may be summed up as 'jobs'. One of the priorities in Toc H would appear to be deliverance from the idea that 'any task for others' must of necessity involve what has been termed 'brute force and ignorance'. In other words, we need to learn that God can use brains as well as brawn: after all, 'strength' comes last on the list of the ways in which we are to love God.

Some of the needs of other people may appear to be obvious; this should not deliver us from the duty of bringing concerted thought to bear upon the situation. The obvious need may not, in fact, be the greatest need, and we may deny some people what they really need—and which we alone can offer them—by leaping, without too much thought, to tackle the obvious. There are those whose greatest need is to be encouraged to help themselves, while our temptation is to do everything for them—so much easier, and it makes us feel that we have achieved a lot. There are also those whose obvious need hides a much more fundamental and vital one: new paint and paper are of little use if the real need is a new roof or even a new house! The creation of a new community or society may be the only real and lasting solution; not attempting to paper over the cracks or shore up the tottering walls of the present society.

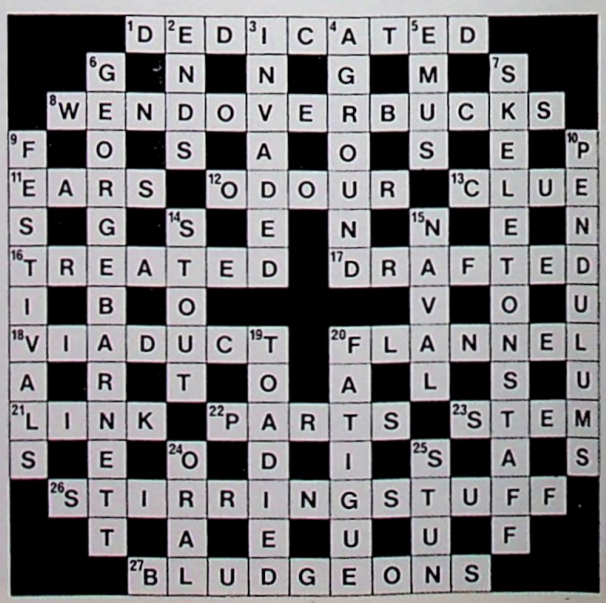
One of the ways in which we can learn 'to leap with joy to any task for others' is either to initiate working-parties to investigate the needs of the local community and of minority groups, or to co-operate with other bodies in such research. This may appear impersonal, less glamourous and, perhaps, time-consuming; but we cannot talk in terms of 'any task for others' if we confine this to physical effort.

It is obvious that God never expects us to do the impossible. Jesus teaches us that. There may well be tasks which are beyond the resources—both of money and manpower—of Toc H. After all, it has never been seriously suggested that we should attempt to feed the world's starving millions or deal with the nation's chronic housing scandal! It is easy for all of us to get overwhelmed by the variety of of needs, and to despair because we cannot deal with them all at once. But ought we to have a guilty conscience because, personally, we do not respond to every appeal for money which is made by any charity? Ought we, as a branch or a Movement, to be feeling guilty because there are obvious social evils we are not tackling in the name of Toc H? The old Quaker concept of 'concern' might well help us in our dilemma. If God gives us a burning 'concern' for some particular need, we can best 'see our duty as His will' by answering that need and leaving it to the Lord to give others different 'concerns'.

One lesson we all need to learn is that because we are called 'to leap with joy' to some particular task, it does not mean that the whole of Toc H must leap with us! Another lesson is that the group or branch that becomes totally immersed in one job to the exclusion of all else is not in fact learning at all. Such a concentration not only tends to make us blind to any other need, but also drives away those who might well join us if they were not expected to become involved on such a narrow front.

This does not mean that we say these words insincerely, rather that we bring to them the thought and expansion of ideas which will make possible an honest attempt to learn how to fulfill this part of our common discipline. The Latin word for a 'learner' is the same as that for a 'disciple'; both are men who are under the discipline of learning from a Master.

Solution to last month's crossword


1D 2E D 3I C 4A T 5E D
6G N N G M 7S
8W E N D O V E R B U C K S
9F O S A O S E 10P
11E A R S 12O D O U R 13C L U E
S G 14S E N 15N E N
16T R E A T E D 17D R A F T E D
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21L I N K 22P A R T S 23S T E M
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26S T I R R I N G S T U F F
T A E U U F
27B L U D G E O N S

NEWSPOINT

MASSIVE INCREASE IN SPENDING

£280,000 budget approved by Central Executive

At its meeting on March 10 the Central Executive approved expenditure totalling £280,295 during the year which began on April 1. This is a massive increase over the budgeted expenditure for 1972-73 of £159,331 and suggests that press comments on 'the £2 million headache' are very wide of the mark.

The main reason for this increase is that provision has been made for the appointment of 12 additional members of the field staff (though this is obviously dependent on suitable candidates coming forward). This, coupled with the improvement in salary scales for existing staff, means that the estimated salary bill is £134,105, compared to the figure in the previous year's budget of £93,340. The provision for travelling costs has likewise increased from £17,658 to £23,960.

The Executive has set up a number of working parties to advise on the implementation of *Strategy for the Seventies*. These will report to the Planning Committee, which will co-ordinate their findings and make recommendations to the Executive. It is likely that a supplementary budget will be prepared in the autumn in the light of the recommendations and this may well make provision for further increases in the field staff.

The budget shows an estimated deficit of £795 but that has only been achieved by carrying forward £46,000 unspent from the previous year. The true deficit on the year's working is thus estimated at close on £47,000. In an interview with *Point Three* George Liddle, Hon Treasurer, said that the Executive is continuing the policy of realising investments up to a sum equivalent to half the average annual growth in the capital value of our investments. 'Bearing this in mind,' he said, 'the Finance Committee has no hesitation in regarding the budget as financially sound'.

However, George stressed that the deficit could only be kept to this figure if the income from membership giving and special efforts reached the target figure of £50,000. 'If membership giving does not keep up,' he said, 'the Movement will stagnate, instead of going forward.'

At the same meeting the Executive approved financial assistance to a major new Toc H project in Newcastle. The project, which will be fully described in the June issue of *Point Three*, will be experimenting in new forms of treatment for children and has grown out of the experience of running camps for Newcastle children at Alnmouth. The Executive agreed to purchase premises for the project at a cost of £15,000 and to make, in addition, a loan of £15,000. 'The Finance Committee is currently considering several other smaller schemes in different parts of the country,' George told us.

George added that there has been very little response so far to the offer of interest free loans for the purchase of new branch premises or improvements to existing premises. The setting up of a revolving fund of £50,000 for this purpose was one of the first decisions taken after the sale of 15 Trinity Square.

'Some people seem to think,' George went on, 'that we have taken a long time to decide how best to use our new resources, but it would have been all too easy just to fritter them away. I hope that this year's budget will make it clear that there is no question of our sitting on a whole lot of money and not knowing what to do with it.'

Trafalgar Square Communion

An open air service of Holy Communion on Whitsunday, June 10, will be held in Trafalgar Square, London, as the climax of a week long festival of new forms of worship. The week is called 'That's the Spirit' and 'it's about worship as celebration', according to the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev Trevor Huddleston, who is one of the many distinguished churchmen backing the venture. Among other sponsors are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Coventry, the President-Designate of the Methodist Conference and Christians from the world of entertainment, such as David Kossoff, Donald Swann and Jimmy Savile.

Celebrating the Eucharist will be the Rt Rev Colin Winter, Bishop of Damaraland-in-exile, and he and Miss Pauline Webb, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, will give the addresses. Music will be led by Reflection and a 100 voice choir. There will be dance sequences by the fountains. And the whole service, which starts at 10.30 am, will be televised live on BBC 1.

Help from the Tech

The development of the flashing light emergency call scheme by Uxbridge branch in Middlesex has brought very close links with the local Technical College. Electrical engineering students produce the units and other students help with the installation. Now the staff of the college has arranged a concert by the Hillingdon Youth Choir and the West Drayton School of Music to raise money for the scheme. The scheme is still in its infancy in Uxbridge but 14 units have been installed to date.

Mark's international evening

Doris Longley

On a Tuesday night in March the newly formed Toc H group in Mark XXIV, Gladstone House, Liverpool, held an International Evening. Members of several branches on Merseyside were invited as were other residents of the house and overseas and local students from the YMCA and other halls of residence. This was a social attempt to bring together the residents, members of Toc H and other students. Martin Heys, the chairman of the group, provided music with his guitar and treasurer, Roger Craig, who is an expert pianist, also entertained in the Gilbert O'Sullivan manner. Eva, the cook in the Mark, surprised everyone with her delightfully Sophie Tucker type of voice and efficient use of the mike. Lilly Carrington read amusing poems in braille. Lighting effects were produced by Jon Spicer and Brian Tyler and the public address system set up by Martin Heys. A delightful buffet of roast potatoes, meat balls, pineapple and cheese, was expertly prepared by Sue Brain and Robert Mulrooney.

A couple of films were projected by Alec Woods, the warden of the house. This was a highly successful evening, members and non-members indeed proving a delightful 'mixture of men'. So pleased are the new group with their venture that they are already preparing for a fund raising Coffee Evening.

50 YEARS YOUNG

Keith Beck

'To leap with joy to any task for others' has become a somewhat time worn expression in Toc H. There was however no signs of tiredness among the members of Exeter branch whose 50th Birthday task was the entertainment of 250 Toc H members and guests at a talent-packed entertainment produced and given by the branch members themselves. From the first moments of the evening, a 'son et lumière' presentation of the Upper Room in the Old House, to the concluding Family Prayers, there was a splendid mixture of what has been termed 'the sublime and the cor-blimey'.

Among the guests was former branch padre, Dr Maurice Key, now Bishop of Truro. Greetings on tape were received from members of Mitcham branch in Australia, where Exeter member 'Busty' Squance was visiting his family. Canterbury and Leicester branches, whose lamps were first lit at the same time as Exeter's, also sent greetings.

Tom Bailey of Buckland-in-Dover, Kent, branch, pictured with his wife and two sons outside Buckingham Palace after receiving the MBE which he was awarded in the New Year Honours.
Photo: Feature Press

Sight & Sound

Keith Beck

A project with a difference is being arranged for those Toc H members and friends of all ages who are keen to learn more about the scenery and wild life of our land. The Dorset coast, with the famous Chesil Beach, is unique, and affords excellent opportunities for bird watching, the collecting of mineral specimens and photography.

We have been fortunate in securing the use of the Othona Community House, near Burton Bradstock, which overlooks Chesil Beach, and which is an ideal centre for this kind of venture. The famous swannery at Abbotsbury is only a few miles away, as are the Radipole Lake Bird Sanctuary at Weymouth and the Bird Recording Station at Portland Bill. Chesil Beach and the Isle of Portland have their own peculiar scenery and merits, for both photography and the study of landscape.

The project will include visits to all the above places; sessions on photography (led by Crispin White) with facilities for processing film used on the project; and further sessions on bird identification, migration, etc. Slides and recordings of bird song will be used.

The dates will be September 22 to 29. The project is limited to a maximum of 16 people. The charge will be £12 for the week, which includes transport for all visits during the project. Enquiries should be sent to Toc H Western Regional Office, 27 North Street, Wellington, Somerset, not later than May 18.

Tubby's own *Journals*

Tubby's own set of bound copies of the *Journal*, going right back to the first duplicated issue, is offered to the first branch to apply. No charge, but you must arrange collection from Tower Hill. Write to: Reg Peters, 41 Trinity Square, London EC3N 4DL.

VAT and YOU

Norman Parker

It has been decided by HM Customs and Excise that branches of Toc H are autonomous bodies, and, as such, qualify for registration for VAT purposes as separate entities. However, the over-riding consideration is that branches whose annual turnover—ie total income—is under £5000 are outside the scope of the Act. It is known that only one branch qualifies for registration under this heading, and all the others, provided they keep within the turnover figure mentioned, need not keep any special form of accounting to meet the requirements of VAT and do not have to make any returns to the Customs.

Special Efforts run by branches will also be outside the scope of the Act for so long as the sum total of all the efforts does not take the annual turnover figure for the branch over the £5000 figure.

There is a provision for a quarterly review of those cases where it is considered that the £5000 limit might be exceeded. Any branches in this position should consult their appropriate Customs Office for details.

Guest experts at PR weekend

'Tell the People' is the title given to this year's Public Relations Weekend, organised by Huw Gibbs, at Dor Knap, September 21-23. Four speakers chosen for their ability to impart information for local publicity have been invited. They are Tony Willmett, Chief Reporter of a large newspaper group, Ian Bruce, Press Officer and TV spokesman for Age Concern, 'Spike' Hill, *Point Three* designer and international award winner and the Rev Brian Blade, a Toc H member with his own programme on Radio Medway. This year the sessions have been extended to cover local display and relations with the community as well as the regular subjects of newspapers and radio.

'This is one of the few training weekends in the year open to all the membership' Huw explained. 'Last year we had people from every Region but there has been little indication that what they learned was put into practice. We want people to come who have realised that good publicity is a top priority in Toc H. The programme is an exciting one and there will be another chance to "do it yourself" in the campaign workshop.' If you are interested in learning about this important area of Toc H activity write to Huw now at Toc H Administrative HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

CARRY ON TYPING

Freda Summerling

Pytchley branch is a newly formed women's branch and has among its members a blind lady, Mrs Gwen Spruce. Recently while going on holiday Gwen had her typewriter stolen. It was a sad loss, as without it Gwen had lost her independence to write to her friends and relations which she enjoyed very much, so it was suggested that we advertise in a local paper which is delivered free to every home, in the hope that someone, somewhere, had a typewriter lying around idle. Within an hour of the paper being distributed a typewriter was offered, but before arrangements could be made a member of Wellingborough branch, K G Laurence, phoned to offer to buy Gwen a typewriter through Toc H. Within a week a brand new typewriter was delivered to her home; as she says, it's hard to tell anyone just what it means to her to have her independence back again and to be able to write to all her friends.

A party for over 40 children and adults from the North Buckinghamshire Society for the Mentally Handicapped. The party was a co-operative effort by Buckingham branch and the Methodist church.
Photo: Buckingham Advertiser

HANDS UP

A bookstall customer asked us, 'Got any good murder stories? I've got a gruesome mum'.

From Harpenden branch newsletter.

Letters

O K Ibe

Some disturbing news has come recently from my Nigerian pen friend and his two motherless boys, now aged $11\frac{3}{4}$ and 10. After my letter in *Point Three* of March 1972, to my delight, readers sent another splendid sum of about £300 to help to build a house for the family. This is now finished and has been named 'Amamini' which, Ibe tells me, is a word meaning 'one who has lost hope of life and later survived'. It is certainly true that Toc H has made life once more possible for all three and given them new hope.

Okoro Ibe lost an eye in the air-raid which killed his wife, the other eye being badly damaged. I have always been confident that provided he could get this eye working again, he would start in afresh to earn his own living. He says repeatedly that he is ashamed of begging. But alas, in spite of a journey last year to the excellent American Eye Hospital at Kano (800 miles each way), which is said to be the best in Nigeria, his sight seems to be getting worse. He writes and reads with increasing difficulty now and the doctors have warned him that one day he will be blind.

Between us, couldn't we 'adopt' this family for a time, to the extent of sending enough to keep them from starving until the boys are able to support their father? If we could guarantee say £20 a month for seven years, which would be little enough for a family in this country, it would literally make a world of difference to them.

Mayne Elson *Tring, Herts*

Note: In order to ensure continuity Toc H Headquarters has accepted responsibility for receiving contributions and making payments. Contributions should therefore be sent to Gilbert Francis, Toc H Administrative Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT, clearly marked for the O K Ibe fund.

Violence

I feel that the Chard branch discussion reported by 'BD' Brown in March goes way off beam.

Disregarding the dubious sections on education and the teacher (incidentally a contradiction in terms), I am concerned to recall the earlier statement that 'every child is born animal', and that that is assumed to be a fact. The teaching in the psalm 'thou hast made man a little lower than the angels, and . . . hast put all the beasts of the field under his feet' appears to have been forgotten, or else ignored.

I would rather suggest that there is that of God in every man, woman and child—in *fact*, a divine essence in man at birth. By all means let us face facts, and if one cannot recognise the divine as fact, then one should stop praying.

John Forbes *Bath*

To see our duty

Peter Johnson's letter is surely based on a wrong premise viz—when most are no longer Christians. I doubt if he has taken a census; nor do I imagine is he working on the statistics of a former census, since I doubt that the majority of people throughout the world have EVER been Christian.

But just taking England on its own, I still believe his pronouncement to be wrong; so perhaps he would produce proof to bolster up his statement.

Apart from all this, in Toc H we say 'O God, who has so wonderfully made Toc H . . . ' I am therefore glad he qualifies himself as an Associate, but it would be interesting to know WHY he attaches himself to a Christian body to do his good works. Perhaps he really wants to be convinced of God's existence?

C A Cordale (Rev) *Totnes, Devon*

Strong stuff

I am, in both senses of the word, an old member of Toc H. My time of preparation for initiation was a hard one, as was usual in those days. We studied the Main Resolution sentence by sentence and we considered it binding on us. I still do.

But now that we have opened the Movement to non-Christians, it is up to us to take a long hard look at that Main Resolution, at that piece of matchless prose.

If I 'think fairly' can I ask the non-Christian candidate 'to fight at all costs for the setting up of His Kingdom on earth'? If I think fairly, can I ask him 'to do His Will as revealed in Christ'?

I turn to the diary and on the second page I read that Toc H has a Christian basis summed up in that same Main Resolution. And then I turn to the prayers in the diary—seven of them and five ask 'through Jesus Christ'. Can I ask or expect the non-Christian to say them with me?

I love Toc H. I had hoped, and in all sincerity, I say 'had hoped', to die a member of it. Something will have to be done about that Main Resolution or either the new candidate or I will be hypocrites. I hate the thought of the question of any alteration but I have bound myself to be 'fairminded'. Have you a solution for me?

W F M Read *Glasgow*

Mark for the elderly

Personally I endorse all the aspects of 'BD' Brown's letter proposing a Mark for the elderly (*Point Three*, December) and I consider the idea really wonderful in this day and age.

J W Gardiner
Willingham, Cambridge

Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three* Magazine, Toc H Headquarters, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL. Telephone 01-709 0472.

BRUGES, BELGIUM. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050)398 31/32.

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Symbol woven in one corner.
Profit from sale will assist Toc H in India.

36″ × 24″ hand-loom offered at 90p plus postage 8p each

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Speen
Newbury Berks

TELL THE PEOPLE

Public Relations Weekend
at Dor Knap
September 21/23 1973

With the knowledge we are accumulating today of the ways men learn and influence each other, we have no right to seem to be 'muddling along'.

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Toc H PR Office
Administrative Headquarters
1 Forest Close
Wendover Aylesbury
Bucks HP22 6BT

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